CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

April 1, 2002

H.R. 3909

Gunn McKay Nature Preserve Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on March 20, 2002

CBO estimates that H.R. 3909 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill could affect direct spending (including offsetting receipts); therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate that any such impacts would be negligible. H.R. 3909 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 3909 would designate 15 acres of federal lands near Huntsville, Utah, as the Gunn McKay Nature Preserve. Subject to valid existing rights, the bill would withdraw those lands from programs to develop mineral and geothermal resources. H.R. 3909 would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a management plan for the proposed preserve in consultation with the city of Huntsville and the Gunn McKay Nature Preserve Foundation, a nonprofit corporation. The bill would authorize the Secretary to enter into a cooperative agreement with that corporation to manage the preserve.

Based on information from the Forest Service, CBO estimates that designating the proposed preserve would not significantly affect federal spending. Withdrawing lands within the area from leasing and development could result in forgone offsetting receipts from those lands if, under current law, the lands would generate receipts from those activities. According to the Forest Service, however, those lands currently generate no significant receipts from such activities, and the agency does not expect them to generate significant receipts over the next 10 years. Hence, we estimate that any changes in offsetting receipts under H.R. 3909 would be negligible.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.